

Goodwin Elementary Announcements & Events

Notices for 8/28/15

- ***Mobile Technology Guidelines and Permission Form***
- ***Welcome Letter from Principal Susan Muirhead***
- ***Goodwin School Office Information***
- ***Goodwin Parent Pick Up Form***
- ***Birthday Book Buddies 2015-2016***
- ***Goodwin Open House Wednesday, September 9, 2015 6:30-7:30***
- ***Goodwin Ambassadors Information for 4th Grade Students***

- ***Community Puppet-Building Workshop Saturday,
September 13, 2015 10:00 am – 5:00 pm***

Scroll down to view the notices



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

KELLY M. LYMAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CT 06268
(860) 429-3350
Fax: (860) 429-3379

September, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Elementary School Students:

The recent development of mobile technologies such as portable readers and tablets are potentially educational tools that can be used to access reading materials and aid student inquiry. Our District is considering how these devices can support learning.

Our school libraries are beginning to explore the use of "eBooks", which are electronic versions of printed books. We will have a small number of portable devices in each library to support this effort. Additionally, the school library websites will have eBooks available to access using school or home computers.

Some of our students use mobile devices at home. Kindles and Nooks are two examples of these items among others. We understand that some parents may wish to have their child bring a device to school. Prior to bringing personally-owned technology to school, we ask that parents review, sign, and return the guidelines form on the back page of this letter. The decision to bring a personally-owned mobile device rests with the parents and there is no expectation that parents need to provide a device for their child.

Our schools have a public wireless network that provides Internet access to some personally owned devices. It is primarily used by guests such as parents and consultants. If your child brings in mobile technology that has wireless capabilities, it may be possible to connect to the Internet. We cannot guarantee that this access will work as our public wireless is limited in its capabilities, but we want you to be aware of this potential as this may not normally be a concern at your home if you do not have a wireless network. Please note the public wireless Internet has an Internet content filter on it that is similar to our regular school content filter, but has slightly different settings because we share it among the school and municipal buildings.

The Mansfield Public Schools looks forward to the continued use of technology in support of a quality instructional program which creates and sustains student interest.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Lyman

Mansfield Elementary Schools
"BYOT" (Bring Your Own Technology) Guidelines

1. Teachers may allow the use of student owned devices in their classrooms. Students may only use the device at school when granted permission by a teacher and only for educational purposes.
2. When a device is not allowed for use, it should be put away. Depending on the furniture and layout in each classroom, the teacher will determine the best storage location such as a student's desk, book bag, or hallway locker. Each of these locations is not locked as we do not have available locked storage. The device cannot be stored in school overnight so it will need to go home at the end of the day.
3. The device is not to be used during outdoor recess.
4. Students will not use the device to take pictures or videos while on school grounds or on the school bus without permission from a teacher.
5. Students may not use the device at times or in ways that in the teacher's judgment may be expected to interfere with learning. Students will comply with teachers' directions to turn off the device or put it away. If a teacher is concerned about potentially inappropriate use, the teacher may ask to see the device.
6. Students should not physically give their personal device to another student because of the monetary value of these items.
7. The District is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen property. The District is not responsible for any data plan charges on mobile devices.
8. BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) is a privilege that may be revoked if a student does not comply with these guidelines or the school's behavior and technology use expectations. The school's disciplinary and acceptable use policies apply to all student behavior including when using a personal device.
9. Teachers are facilitators of instruction in their classrooms and cannot spend time fixing technical difficulties with student owned devices in the classroom. This responsibility will reside at home with parents/guardians. Personal devices need to be charged prior to bringing them to school.
10. The District understands that some parents may want their child to bring a cell phone to school. Cell phones must remain turned off in school so as not to interrupt the flow of instruction. Parents that need to communicate an urgent message to their child should call the school office. Cell phones also must remain turned off on school buses.

I have reviewed these guidelines with my child and would like to give my child permission to bring a personally owned mobile device to school. This permission slip is for the current school year and only needs to be returned to school if a child might be bringing a device to school.

Student's Name (Printed): _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

Type of Mobile Device (i.e. Kindle, Nook, cell phone, etc.): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School

321 Hunting Lodge Rd. Storrs, Ct. 06268

Principal – Susan Muirhead

860-429-6316 Phone, 860-487-5641 Fax, guoffice@mansfieldct.org –email

August 5, 2015

To The Parents/Guardians of Goodwin Students:

It has been a warm and fruitful summer here at Goodwin. Our custodial and maintenance staff has worked hard to refresh our building and grounds; Mansfield's Summer School has run beautifully under the guidance of our Director of Special Education, Rachel LeClerc, lead teacher, Karen Burnham, Michelle Strauss and Mary Mohan. I am looking forward to having our children and staff return to school and begin our new year. Please join me on Monday, August 24, 2015 at our annual Picnic from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (bring your own picnic foods and blankets) and Ice Cream Social from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., which is generously supported by our PTO.

I hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying the last of the summer with much relaxation and time with family and friends. As school fast approaches, the following is some information that you will need.

School begins Wednesday, August 26, 2015 for K to 4th grade students; Pre-K begins on August 27th. Please check The Willimantic Chronicle or The Reminder for the bus schedules. They will be posted during the week of August 10th.

Our Open House will be Wednesday, September 9, 2015, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. All parents and students are invited to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet our teachers and to get comfortable with your child's classrooms and daily routines. I encourage all families to attend!

We will be welcoming very few new staff members to the school this year; our evening custodian Mike Balkus has taken another position at the library and our SWEIT .5 Paraprofessional, Jen Miller has moved away over the summer. We will be filling these positions shortly.

School Supplies

When you are shopping for a backpack, please keep in mind that our lockers are relatively small. Backpacks need to be large enough to hold snow pants in the winter but small enough to fit in lockers. Please do not buy backpacks with wheels as they do not fit in the lockers and they become dangerous when children try to navigate the halls with them. While most children enjoy getting a special pencil or notebook for the start of the year, keep in mind that all supplies your child will need to do well here at Goodwin are provided. While you are shopping, we ask you to consider picking up supplies that can be donated to the PTO Backpack Brigade. Glue sticks, pencils, crayons are often steeply marked down at this time of year and are just what we need to fill backpacks for children in need locally, regionally and/or globally.

Friday Folders

Children will bring home any papers or occasional fliers on Fridays in their Friday Folder. Please take out and review all information and then return the folder on Monday. We are a green school, so most announcements will be sent through our electronic "Weekly Home Notices" on Fridays. Check our website for examples of these announcements. For important, immediate notices such as emergencies or bus issues, etc. we use Q-Notify. We urge parents to sign up for Q-Notify by email. Procedures for signing up for Q-notify can be found in the opening day folder and on the Goodwin website.

over

Arrival Procedures

Parents dropping off children are asked to pull into the upper lot and go toward the right. Drive to the back and then circle back toward the exit. Beginning at 8:35 a.m., a staff member wearing their identification card will be at the top of the stairway. When you get up to that staff member, your children can exit the car and walk down the stairs to the building. Another staff member will be stationed at the bottom of the stairs and will supervise children as they cross the driveway. Think of it as the Goodwin valet service! The important thing to remember is that children should not be let out of the car until you are next to the staff member on duty. By doing this one car at a time, we are able to be safe and efficient. Please be as time efficient as possible by pulling away as soon as your child is with the staff member. Our valet service ends at 8:55 a.m.

If you do need to come into the building, we ask that children be dropped off in the lobby so they can develop independence in getting to their lockers and classrooms. Parents are asked to check into the office if they have a meeting, need to speak with someone, or need to help a child carry something heavy down to the classroom. This procedure ensures that we are aware of all adults in the building during those transition times.

If you arrive after 8:55, you will need to park your car in the upper lot and walk your child into the office for a tardy slip. Children who are tardy may not enter the building alone.

Breakfast Program

There is a breakfast program available to any child whose family qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program. The application form is included in your first day materials. Breakfast is such an important meal; we urge all eligible families to take advantage of this opportunity. If you would like more information, please call Kariann, our district Food Service Director at 860-429-7824 for information. All inquiries are confidential.

Snack Time

Snack time is provided mid-morning each day. Please be aware that snacks in most classrooms are eaten while students are working. Please keep snacks small and nutritious. Water is available in each classroom but you are also free to pack juice. Keep in mind that children will be eating lunch within a couple of hours of snack. Children who consume too many calories at snack time often do not eat much of their lunch.

Reading is the key to student success

Please remember to both encourage your children to read every day and have you read to them every day as well for the remainder of the summer and throughout the coming school year. Reading is directly related to student success in school.

I look forward to greeting your children on August 26th. It's going to be a great year! Until then, enjoy these last days of summer. See you all very soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan Muirhead". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs. Susan Muirhead
Dorothy C. Goodwin Principal

School Office Information

Office Email: gnooffice@mansfieldct.org

Office Phone: 860-429-6316

Transportation info: Please note that the first couple of weeks buses tend to run later due to establishing the routes. If your child is to be picked up or dropped off at a different location other than your home address, please request a long term bus change form from the office immediately. Forms do not transfer from year to year, each year you need to fill out a new form.

- **If you need to pick your child up from school:** Please email the school office with your child's name, teacher, and time of pick up, followed by a phone call. If possible please email the office before 12:30. Last minute requests become difficult as the end of the day is very busy for teachers preparing to dismiss students. You may also send a note with your child to give to the teacher in the morning.

Absences/Tardy: Please call the office by 8:30am if your child will be absent or late to school. If you receive our voicemail, please leave a message stating your child's name, teacher and reason for the absence. If they will be tardy please state your child's name teacher, time they will be arriving and if they will be purchasing a school lunch (what type: bag, yogurt or hot lunch).

Visiting the school: Please report to the office upon arriving. All visitors need to sign in and wear a visitor badge. If visiting a classroom, arrangements must be made with the teacher in advance.

Goodwin Parent Pick Up

Send in with your child to give to their teacher, or email to the office at
gnoffice@mansfieldct.org

Student_____

Teacher_____ Grade_____

I will be picking my child up from school at dismissal time (3:35pm) on
these days:

(please select days with an X)

Mon._____

Tues._____

Wed._____

Thurs._____

Fri. _____

Start Date_____

For the rest of the school year_____

OR

Until further notice_____

Parent Signature_____

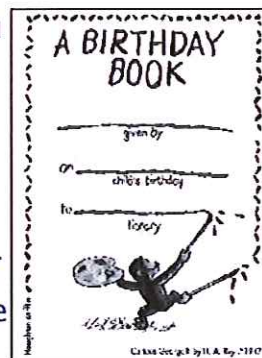
*office/office forms

Mansfield School Libraries

Birthday Book Buddies 2015-2016



Birthdays are always special to a child. What better way to celebrate the special occasion than donate a book to your library in honor of the birthday child and arrange for a small gift for each student in your child's classroom? The "Birthday Book Buddies" program gives you the chance to make a lasting gift to your school library in a child's name. Children with summer birthdays may choose to celebrate on their half-birthday.



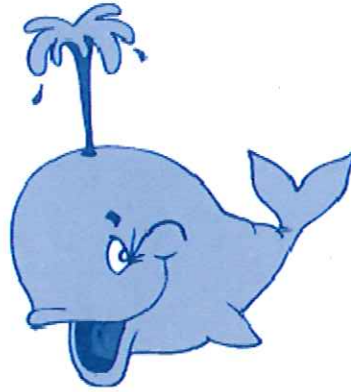
For a donation of \$15, participants may choose a hardcover book from a selection of newly ordered books. We will place a bookplate commemorating the child's birthday and acknowledging the donor inside the book. In addition, the birthday boy/girl will have their picture taken with their book and displayed in the school. They will also be given the opportunity to be the first to borrow the book.



In honor of this special day, your child's classroom will be treated to a small gift basket with an assortment of items. Gifts might include cool bookmarks, unique erasers, special pens, pencils, notepads or other items.

Are you a *Birthday Book Buddy*? Support your school library and celebrate a special day all in one program. Last year we had great participation in this program—let's see if we can have even more *Birthday Book Buddies* than we had during the last school year!

Contact your school library staff to make arrangements to participate in this program (please make checks payable to the Mansfield Public Schools) or email Mrs. Emily Tinnel (Shared Librarian) TinnelEW@MansfieldCT.org



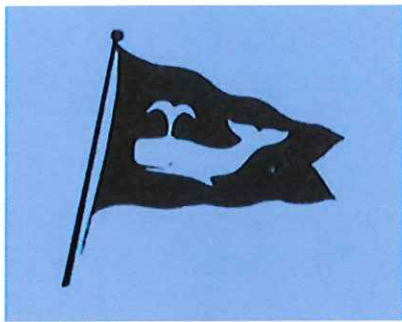
GOODWIN OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday,
September 9, 2015

6:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Hope to see you there!

*located in office/revised summer forms



Goodwin Ambassadors

Interested in being a SCHOOL LEADER?

HELPING OTHERS? HELPING OUT YOUR SCHOOL?

GIVING TOURS TO NEW FAMILIES?

JOIN the "Goodwin Ambassadors" club. The group is open to all 4th grade students.

The group will meet EVERY MONTH at lunch time starting on Monday, September 7th.

Some possible activities that we will be promoting include:

World Kindness Day food drive, Fall Coat Drive, Pennies for Patients, Movie Night, Spirit Week, Book Fair (Fall and Spring), PTO and school events as student representatives, classroom helpers, assistants to staff or teachers, hands on tasks (copy making, stuffing mailboxes for teachers, distributing materials for the PTO or staff, lost and found maintenance, provide tours of the school to new or prospective students and their families.

The ambassadors could also seek out opportunities to reach out to the larger community. The senior center, nursing home, and food pantry are some examples.

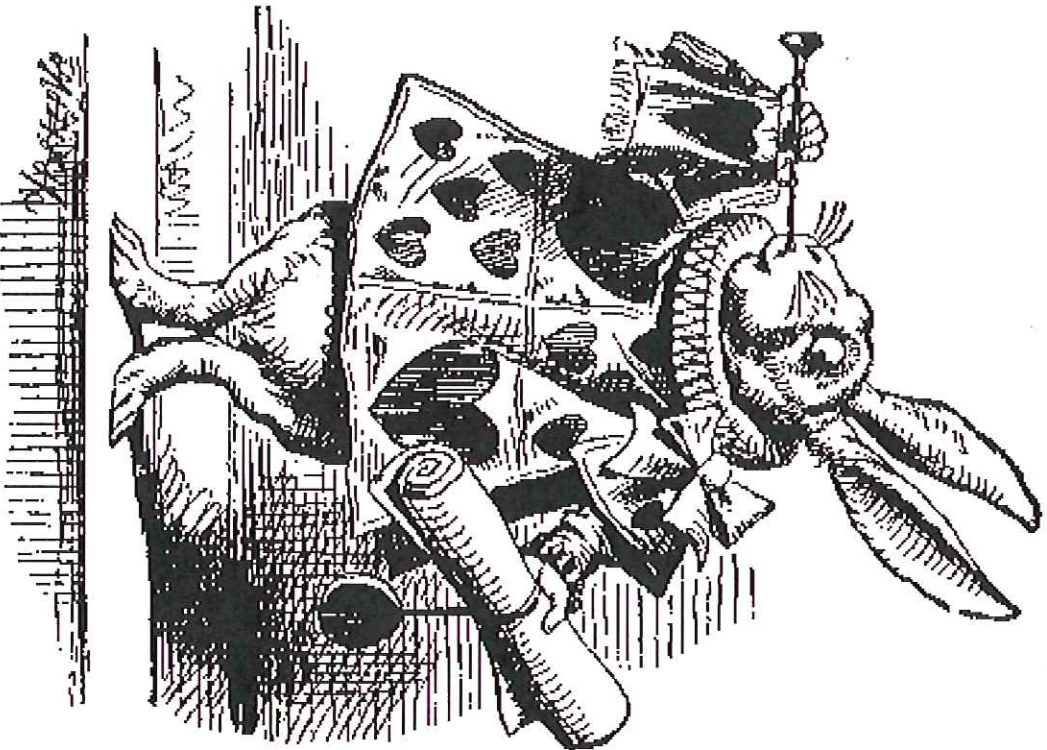
Interested? Please complete and return:

Student's Name _____

Parent's/Guardian's Signature _____

Community Puppet-Building Workshop

Saturday, Sept. 12 & Sunday, Sept. 13 | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



The Community Puppet-Building Workshop is **FREE** and **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** The Workshop will be at the Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry.

Info: bimp.uconn.edu or 860.486.8580

Then, march with the Ballard and your creations in the **Celebrate Mansfield Parade on Sunday, September 20** - part of the 12TH Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival!

This year's theme is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in honor of the 150TH anniversary of Lewis Carroll's classic tale.

The White Rabbit, the Red Queen, the March Hare, the Cheshire Cat, & Alice herself — which character would **YOU** like to create?

ballard
institute & museum of
puppetry



Mansfield Downtown Partnership
Helping to Build Mansfield's Future

